This is our VVRC REPEATER print version An expanded online version is available by free subscription http://www.vacavalleyradio.net

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER

February 2012

President's Message-The Feedline

By Marcus Maclean, KI6WDX

Greetings, fellow members! Don't forgot your XYL (if you have one) this month!!

Whew, time is flying by, isn't it? It's now February with last month having flown by and February will probably do the same. Our club member Walter, WB6JTJ is expecting AT&T to arrive at his house soon and fix the U-verse problems that have plagued his station and restricted him to only being able to GOTA in the late evenings of both Fridays & Saturdays and so hopefully very soon, he'll be able to work his HF station to the max!

While my antennas are not yet installed on my home, I still have a temporary setup in that I have my FT-7900R connected to my soon-to-be-mounted Diamond X-50A antenna in a tripod just slightly above ground zero. But what I find unusual is that there does not appear to be any of our club members making full use of both repeaters up on Mt. Vaca. What I hear is rag chews on other nearby local repeaters, but both of our club repeaters are silent. Aside from the Tuesday night Net Meeting, that's about the only time I hear the repeater in use coming over the 2 meter repeater and virtually nothing on the 70 cm repeater. Are we that incapable of using our dedicated repeaters? Or is the "why" from a condition I'm not aware of? Because of this stale repeater use condition, I will be sending out a short questionnaire this month to all club members via email and "snail" mail to those whose email address bounces back. I really would appreciate in having the questionnaire answered and returned to me via email.

So just remember that if you receive an email from a Mr. Wizard, it is the questionnaire and so please do not mark the email as junk or delete it!! I just want to remind all of you that in order to get more out of the Vaca Valley Radio Club, there has to be an equal amount of input into it whether it's using the two Mt. Vaca repeaters, attending the monthly club-meetings, stepping forward to give a radio related presentation, asking questions or making a suggestion!

There will be a radio related presentation for the February club meeting. Until next month, be safe and be well! 73!

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President……1
Meeting Minutes……1
2011 ARRL VHF/UHF January Sweeps……2
M2 Swap Meet……2
Around the Shack……2
New Rules for 60 meters Band……3
472 KHz Band Allocation……4
Medical Devices on 70 cm Band……4
W1AW Gets New Antennas from M2……4
Beautiful QSL Cards from Around the World……5
Membership Application……5

January Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by club president Marcus Maclean KI6WDX at 7:18pm local time. There were no minutes from the December meeting because it was a holiday party. Bob Hewitt K6HEW submitted a financial report as follows:

General Fund = $1,706.58
Repeater Fund = $1,044.00
Total Funds = $2,750.58

Many club members have paid their dues and some are still due as of this meeting.

Discussion regarding the Repeater Fund among the membership cleared up some questions regarding that fund is used. An annual donation is made to the repeater owner and a reserve is kept in the fund for emergencies that come up.

Old Business: We need a better venue for the Holiday Party. The food wasn't that good. No committee was created for this mission, but several members will report back with ideas and restaurant reviews over the next club year in plenty of time to pick a new venue for 2012.

New Business: Club president Marcus Maclean KI6WDX floated the idea of the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting. It was agreed that we would do this.

Net control volunteers were are being recruited. So far we have the following net control volunteers in place:

1st—Open
2nd— Jerry Olive KD6WKY
3rd—Open
4th—Glenn Mitchell W6JLX
5th—Bob Hewitt K6HEW

It was hoped that Tom N6AJR would take the 1st Tuesday and the Vidal Family would take the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Those details are still being finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm local time.

2011 ARRL VHF /UHF January Sweepstakes

The Vaca Valley Radio Club W6VVR had three club members earn first place awards in this contest. By now they have received their 1st Place Certificates suitable for framing.

Congratulations to Larry Hogue W6OMF for earning 1st Place in the East Bay Section, Single Operator, High Power category. There was a lot of competition in this category so kudos to Larry for achieving first place honors.

Congratulations to former member and former club president Scott Joseph KI6YYZ and Jerry Olive KD6WKY operating as W6VVR/R for achieving 1st place in the Sacramento Valley Section in the Rover category.

M² Annual Swap Meet

The Annual Swap Meet sponsored by M² Antenna Systems, Inc is coming up in March. Here is an article by Larry W6OMF about his 2011 experience at the swap meet.

M² 2011

Rallied the gas money and headed to Fresno for the annual gathering at the M² plant. Swap meet, BBQ and just plain old Grip N Grin… GNG… Got to have those texting abbreviation. Hi hi

Weather was on our minds the whole time as it was forecasted to rain. Leaving the house on Friday I was in pouring rain all the way to Stockton, CA they it was as if I drove thru a curtain. NADA!!!! Broken clouds and Sun the rest of the trip… Friday night it did rain, and enough that it woke me, but by 6 AM it was gone and no clouds. Cool…

That's it! Weather stayed away for the SWAP and I did not run into rain again, until Flag City, CA coming home. About 10 miles North of Stockton, CA… amazing…
The SWAP! Around 300 with some great sales going on. The commercial group was in fine shape with sales from HRO, CQ Magazine, Yaesu, DX Store, AMSAT, and others. Their presents was greatly appreciated as well as their donations. Thanks for the support.

The staff cleaned and set up the place to accommodate the group getting around and seeing the machine shop, service area, and all the neat antennas. They then prepared a great BBQ and feed everyone. Thanks for the food, good times and great camaraderie. Drawings were held and gift certificates were used this year giving the group winners a chance to select what they wanted.

A good time was had by all and it was such a great time to see those a bit far away that we don't usually see… Ok one SWAP down and a dozen to go… Next know SWAP MEET here in the area is the North Hills in MAY… Sacramento, CA here we come…

73 Larry, W6OMF

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2011 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Vice President: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman KE6MDM

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Around the Shack

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

January was a pretty good month in the shack over all I think. I worked DX mostly on the upper bands due to the great band conditions all month long. I picked up couple of new countries on bands and confirmed TN2T Republic of the Congo via Log Book of the World which is a new country. Woohoo!

I also worked a couple of big DXpedition and a couple of small DXpeditions. The big DXpeditions were VP6T on Pitcairn Island and HKØNA on Melpelo Island near Columbia.

VP6T is what I consider back yard DX. Very easy to work from here, just point the antenna south and pick a band. There is nothing but water practically speaking between Vacaville and Pitcairn to cause problems. I worked VP6T on six bands both SSB and CW with low power and even QRP which means 5 watts or less.

You may know of Pitcairn Island from the book *Mutiny on the Bounty.* Check it out.

The other DXpedition HKØNA on Melpelo Island near Columbia was different. I worked them on the band between 2Ø meters and 1Ø meters but never heard them well enough to work them on 3Ø meters, 4Ø meter, or 8Ø meters. I read reports that the low bands were pretty weak throughout North America. I don't know why, it could have been difficulty with antennas and terrain. The island is a big rock, not suitable for antenna farms. I'll take what I can get. It's a new one for me regardless of the band.

I worked the Minnesota QSO Party yesterday, the day before the Super Bowl. I think this is the third or forth time I've worked that party. This time I decided to spend most of my time on SSB for a change and see if I could get more of the voice guys and gals in the log from Minnesoooooota.

My experience was that not many operators in MN work this QSO party. I worked it early, mid, and late with rather poor results frankly. There are 87 counties in MN, I worked 20 of them.

I observed that some people don't listen before keying. Here is a typical exchange I had Saturday afternoon:

Me: CQ contest this is KD6WKY in California working the Minnesota QSO Party, any Minnesota Station, any Minnesota County, Minnesota stations only. Over.

Them: This is W5XXL over.

Me: Are you in Minnesota? Over.

Them: Ahhh, no, I'm in Sugar Ditch, Mississippi. Over. (heavy Cajon accent)

Me: Roger. I'm looking for Minnesota stations only for the Minnesota QSO Party. 73 to you OM.

Them: Okay, good luck.

Oregon, Texas, New Jersey, Canada, California, and Wisconsin among others all chiming in.

I decided they probably were dialing around and heard me and jumped on the microphone quickly.

This happened a lot on CW also, but there it is easier to just complete the QSO and move on. No discussion back and forth about what I am doing there.

The most interesting contact was a station in Grand Marquis, MN which is on the North Shore of Lake Superior. That guy is snow bound right now.

Lastly I got my T32C QSL card from Christmas Island. Very nice card. I'll bring it in for viewing.

New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

02/03/2012

On November 18, the FCC **released** a *Report and Order* (***R&O***), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a *Petition for Rulemaking* (***PRM***) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (***NPRM***). In the **February 3 edition of the *Federal Register***, the FCC **announced** that these new rules will go into effect on March 5, 2012.

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules."

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful inter-

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please email us at w6vvr@vacavalleyradio.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: http://vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.47Ø MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.2ØØ(-)

ference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

Amateur Allocation at 472 kHz Moves a Step Closer to Acceptance

02/03/2012

While two hurdles still remain to be cleared, the effort to gain a new amateur medium frequency (MF) allocation reached a major milestone on Thursday, February 2 at the 2012 World Radio communication Conference (**WRC-12**) in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, a Sub Working Group dealing with Agenda Item 1.23: "To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services." In a series of 12 meetings over a 10-day period from the beginning of the WRC on January 23, this group has worked to resolve differences among various proposals for an amateur allocation between the proponents and opponents of an allocation.

"On February 1, a formulation for an allocation was found that resolved the concerns of nearly all of the opposing administrations," Sumner explained. "A small number of administrations remained opposed to an allocation, so the Sub Working Group had to report to its Working Group -- the next level up in the Conference structure -- that consensus had not quite been reached and that two options remained: An allocation with conditions worked out by most administrations on the one hand, and 'no change' on the other."

Sumner noted that on February 2, the Working Group made minor adjustments in the formulation and agreed to forward two options to the next level, which is Committee 4 of the Conference. "A decision between the two options is likely to be made by Committee 4 early next week," he said. "If a positive decision is made, it will then be considered by the Plenary, where the proposed modifications to the Radio Regulations that are necessary to accomplish the allocation will be reviewed in two 'readings' of the text. Passage on second reading in the Plenary is the last step prior to the signing of the Final Acts at the conclusion of the WRC on February 17."

Sumner explained that the formulation that has been agreed upon by most administrations calls for a worldwide secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 472-479 kHz, with a power limit of 1 W EIRP. A provision has been made, however, for administrations to permit up to 5 W EIRP for stations located more than 800 km from certain countries that wish to protect their aeronautical radio navigation service (non-directional beacons) from any possible interference. Proposed footnotes provide administrations with opportunities to opt out of the amateur allocation and/or to upgrade their aeronautical radio navigation service to primary, if they wish to do so. In addition to these protections for aeronautical radio navigation, the Amateur Service must avoid harmful interference to the primary maritime mobile service.

"The International Amateur Radio Union team that has been working on this agenda item since 2007 is cautiously optimistic that the thousands of hours of work that have been devoted to achieving a positive outcome are about to pay off," Sumner said. "ITU decisions are made by consensus and success is still not assured, but prospects have brightened considerably since the first week of the WRC."

FCC Sets Date for Medical Devices on 70 cm

01/27/2012

In November 2011, **FCC Commissioners unanimously agreed** to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). These devices will be used on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Device Radiocommunication (MedRadio) Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. In the ***Federal Register for Friday, January 27***, the FCC announced that the effective date for these new rules is Monday, February 27. The new rules expand the existing MedRadio Service rules to permit the use of new wideband medical implant devices that employ neuromuscular microstimulation techniques to restore sensation, mobility, and other functions to paralyzed limbs and organs. These medical devices hold enormous promise to advance the state of medical care, lower health costs, and improve the quality of life for countless Americans. The rules will allow these new types of MedRadio devices to access 24 megahertz of spectrum in the 413–419 MHz, 426–432 MHz, 438–444 MHz, and 451–457 MHz bands on a secondary basis.

W1AW Gets New Antennas

01/28/2012

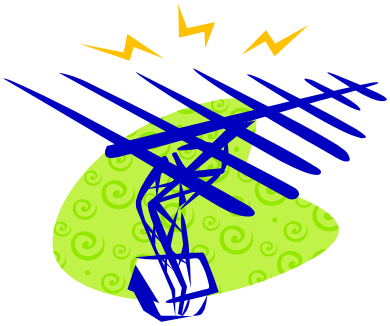
The freak snow storm in late October wreaked havoc on the **ARRL HQ antenna farm**. According to **W1AW** Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, both of W1AW's M-Squared 40 meter Yagis were severely damaged, as was the 80 meter cage antenna, and an element on the **north tower**'s 10 meter Yagi was twisted vertically. The antennas atop the ARRL Headquarters building for W1HQ, the station for the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club, also received damage: the Gap Titan vertical was turned into something that looked like a pretzel, and the Pro-Sis-Tel rotator was also damaged.

"Until we could get these antennas replaced, we had some temporary fixes so we could still send out the bulletins and provide a station for our visitors," Carcia explained. "For 40 meters, I

homebrewed a 'fat dipole,' and for 80 meters, I strung a simple dipole off the north tower."

Matt Strelow, KC1XX, and Andrew Toth of XX Towers came to Newington earlier this week to replace most of the damaged items. Together with Carcia, they removed the damaged 80 meter wire cage antenna and repaired the element on the 10 meter Yagi on the north tower. They also removed the two damaged 40 meter Yagis on the center tower (a 120 foot Rohn 65 tower) and replaced them with two new Cushcraft XM240 40 meter Yagi antennas. For W1HQ, they replaced the damaged rotator with a new Yaesu G-1000DXA rotator. Before Strelow and Toth arrived, Carcia had already assembled both of the new 40 meter Yagis and prepared the new W1HQ rotator and its control cable.

"Matt and Andrew normally perform inspections for W1AW and W1HQ twice a year in the spring and autumn," Carcia said. "They were here for two days installing the new antennas, but they did not perform any inspections. They'll come back in the spring for that."



In the early spring, Carcia will replace the Gap Titan that used to be on top of the ARRL HQ building with a vertical antenna that Step-pIR has donated to W1HQ.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues --------- $20.00_____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00_____
Student ---------- $ 5.00_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation ---_____
Call/Name badge -------- $11.00_____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues---------- $37.00_____

Total----------_____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143